

BRISTOL, April 20th, 1765.

P R O P O S A L S⁴
For Publishing by SUBSCRIPTION,
A
LIBERAL TRANSLATION
OF THE
NEW TESTAMENT;

Being an Attempt to translate the sacred Writings with the same Freedom, Spirit and Elegance, with which other English Translations from the Greek Classics, have lately been executed : The Design and Scope of each Author being strictly and impartially explored, the true Signification and Force of the Original critically observed, and, as much as possible, transfused into our Language, and the Whole elucidated and explained upon a new and rational Plan, with select Notes, critical and explanatory.

By E. HARWOOD.

SUBSCRIPTIONS are taken in by A. Millar, in the Strand ; J. Doddsley, in Pall Mall ; J. Waugh, in Lombard Street ; C. Henderson, at the Royal Exchange ; T. Field, the Corner of Pater Noster Row : T. Becket, in the Strand, London ; T. Cadell, in Bristol ; Leake, in Bath ; Tozer, in Exeter ; Sibbald, in Liverpool ; and Newton and Clarke, in Manchester.

THE

PROPOSALS

FOR THE

LIBRARY

OF THE

NEW TESTAMENT

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BY

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THE Author, encouraged by great Numbers of the Friends of Liberty and free Enquiry, now offers to public Subscription an accurate and liberal Translation of the **NEW TESTAMENT**, in the Execution of which he hath spent five Years of hard Study and intense Application, and hath now finished and transcribed the whole. He began and pursued the Undertaking upon this Plan, viz. To translate the sacred Writers of the **NEW TESTAMENT** with the same Freedom, Impartiality, and Elegance, with which other Translations from the Greek Classics have lately been executed and to cloathe the genuine Ideas and Doctrines of the Apostles with that Propriety and Perspicuity, in which they themselves would have exhibited them had they now lived and written in our Language. The true Meaning and Design of each Author hath been strictly and impartially explored, the Signification and Force of the Greek Original hath been critically observed, and, as much as possible, transfused into modern English, and the whole sacred Volume elucidated and explained

plained upon a new and rational Plan, with select Notes, critical and explanatory. The Author hath made the Greek Language his particular Study for above 15 Years, and hath carefully read over all the Writers of most Value in that Language, with a View to illustrate the inspired Writers, to understand the Customs of the Age in which they wrote, and to acquire an accurate Knowledge of the Greek Testament. The Author's primary Design in this Work hath been to exhibit the Christian Religion in its native Purity and original Simplicity, unadulterated with human Systems, Creeds, Doctrines, and Modes of Faith. In this Work the Author is of no Party, Sect, and Denomination of Christians, but hath given a fair and honest Version of the divine Volume, just as if he had sat down to translate Plato, Xenophon, Thucydides, Arrian, or any other Greek Writer, with a Mind entirely free from all Prejudices and Prepossessions, and solely intent upon investigating and discovering Truth. Every one must be convinced, that a faithful and accurate Version of any Writer in a dead Language is sufficient for understanding the Meaning and Design of that Author, and that the Fidelity of such a Translator entirely supercedes all the tedious Explications and laborious Idleness of dull and heavy Commentators. The Author, therefore, presumes to assert, that this Work, if carefully and candidly perused, with a Mind open to the Reception of Truth, will, by all rational and intelligent Chri-

Christians be judged to conduce to a more clear and comprehensive Knowledge of Christianity than those voluminous Critics, Paraphrasts, Illustrators, and Interpreters of the sacred Scriptures, who have, in general, been more studious to wrest the Scriptures to their preconceived Notions, than to adjust and regulate their Religious Sentiments by the plain Dictates of Reason and the infallible Rule and Standard of the Divine Oracles. Within these few Years what dire Inundations have we seen rushing from the Press and deluging the Public, of Commentators upon the Scriptures, Explanations of the Holy Bible, the Royal Bible with Notes, the elegant Bible, the Complete Bible, the Grand Complete Bible, the Grand Imperial Bible! some the Jobbs of mercenary Bookfellers, others the sickly Dreams of illiterate Enthusiasts and entranced Visionaries, and all, the wretched Production of dark and melancholy Divines, the biggoted Abettors of unintelligible Mysteries, original Corruption, irresistible Grace, unconditional Fatalism, and other unscriptural Absurdities. The Author is painfully conscious of the desperate Hazard of standing in the way of such a vast and rapid Deluge, which is continually augmenting, and bearing down every thing rational and truly excellent before it, but he is animated with the pleasing Assurance, that there are VERY CONSIDERABLE NUMBERS of the rational and well instructed, who have gloriously stemmed the Torrent

rent of this general Corruption of primitive Christianity, have triumphed over all Opposition, and have approved themselves the steady and inflexible Friends of CHRISTIAN LIBERTY. It is for these the Author hath translated the NEW TESTAMENT: It is from these, solely, that he expects Encouragement: They are these, alone, who will be his Readers. Farther, the reasoning of St. Paul in the Romans, Galatians, and other Epistles, hath been carefully explored and elucidated upon rational Principles; the difficult Passages are familiarly explained, the Connection pointed out, and the HAY AND STUBBLE, the absurd and irrational Doctrines, which have overwhelmed Christianity, and hid its true Form and Features from public Inspection, are here totally removed.

In fine, since Deism so much prevails in the present Age, since Enthusiasm is continually duping and enslaving the credulous and ignorant, both among the great Vulgar and the Small, and is daily making a most rapid and amazing Progress all around us; since rational Christianity is, at present, regarded with so much Contempt and even Horror by the generality of Mankind; and since a Love of unintelligible Mysteries, and a Fondness for gloomy and inexplicable Doctrines have, with the Majority, discarded Reason and Common sense from Religion, the Author flatters himself the present Work will be of no inconsiderable Utility to the Public, in which it hath been his Study to free the NEW TESTA-
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MENT from all those false Translations which, at present, deform it and render it absolutely unintelligible to all common Readers, to purify its sacred Streams from those corrupt Admixtures, by which it was industriously suited to the false Taste of the MONARCH and of the Age, in which it was translated, to represent it, as it really is, in itself, a most rational, uniform, amiable, consistent Scheme, and to exhibit, before the candid, the unprejudiced, and the intelligent of all Parties, the true, original, divine Form of Christianity, in its beautiful Simplicity, divested of all the meretricious Attire with which it hath been loaded, and solely adorned with its native Elegance and Charms, which need only be contemplated, in order to excite the Admiration, Transport, and Love of every virtuous Christian.

The Work will be put to the Press next Winter, and will be printed in a very elegant Manner, on the very best Paper, and a beautiful Type, in Two Volumes in Octavo : The Price to Subscribers, whose Names will be printed, will be Twelve Shillings in blue Covers, to be paid on the Delivery of both the Volumes.

Lately published by the same Author, and
sold by C. Henderson, under the Royal Ex-
change, and T. Becket, and P. A. De Hondt,
in the Strand.

I. A Sermon on the Death of the Reverend
Doctor Taylor, of Norwich.

II. An Account of the Conversion of a
Deist.

III. Reflections on the Unacceptableness of a
Death-Bed Repentance. Second Edition.

IV. An Oration pronounced on the Anniver-
sary of Christ's Nativity, and published as in-
troduitory to a Translation of the celebrated M.
Saurin's Discourses, by a society of Gentlemen.

* * The above Pamphlets are recommended
by the authors of the Monthly Review.

*N.B. That Review commends
all Books, Essays, Sermons &c
of the Arian Stamp*

